

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (New): A heat exchanger comprising:

a pair of headers spaced apart and opposing each other;

a plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel and spaced apart from each other, each of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes having an opposite end placed into a corresponding insertion hole formed in a respective one of the pair of headers such that the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes are joined to the headers;

a side plate disposed outside of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel such that the side plate is disposed at a distance from an end tube of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel, the side plate having opposing projections and opposing upright walls integrally formed therein and each extending toward said outside of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes, the opposing projections being provided at opposing lengthwise end portions of the side plate, and the opposing upright walls being provided at opposing widthwise side edges of the side plate;

corrugated fins arranged between adjacent heat exchange tubes, and arranged between the side plate and the end heat exchange tube adjacent thereto;

a pressure member provided between the opposing upright walls of the side plate and having a length greater than a distance between the opposing projections such that the pressure member is in contact with each of the projections;

a fastening member arranged to bind the pressure member, side plate, heat exchange tubes and corrugated fins together at a location between one of said projections and a respective header adjacent thereto; and

brazing joints provided at least between the headers and an adjacent heat exchange tube, and provided at least between the corrugated fins and an adjacent heat exchange tube or an adjacent side plate.

Claim 18 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 17, wherein each of the opposing projections of the side plate are positioned at a distance of up to 135 mm from one of the headers .

Claim 19 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 17, wherein each of the opposing projections comprises at least two projections spaced apart along a widthwise direction of the side plate.

Claim 20 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 17, wherein the opposing projections of the side plate each have a height of 0.3 to 1 mm.

Claim 21 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 17, wherein the opposing projections of the side plate each have a circular shape of 1 to 4 mm in diameter.

Claim 22 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 17, further comprising a sub-projection formed at a distance from each opposing projection at the end portions of the

side plate, each of the sub-projections being positioned inwardly of the opposing projections with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 23 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 22, wherein each sub-projection is provided at a distance of up to 30 mm from one of the opposing projections at each end portion of the side plate.

Claim 24 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 22, wherein each sub-projection comprises at least two sub-projections spaced apart along a widthwise direction of the side plate.

Claim 25 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 22, wherein the sub-projections of the side plate each have a height of 0.3 to 1 mm.

Claim 26 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 22, wherein the sub-projections of the side plate each have a circular shape of 1 to 4 mm in diameter.

Claim 27 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 22, further comprising:  
a fastening member provided at a location between a header and an opposing projection at an end portion of the side plate, and

a fastening member provided at another location inwardly of a sub-projection with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 28 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 23, further comprising:

a fastening member provided at a location between a header and an opposing projection at an end portion of the side plate, and

a fastening member provided at another location inwardly of a sub-projection with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 29 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 24, further comprising:

a fastening member provided at a location between a header and an opposing projection at an end portion of the side plate, and

a fastening member provided at another location inwardly of a sub-projection with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 30 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 25, further comprising:

a fastening member provided at a location between a header and an opposing projection at an end portion of the side plate, and

a fastening member provided at another location inwardly of a sub-projection with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 31 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 26, further comprising:

a fastening member provided at a location between a header and an opposing projection at an end portion of the side plate, and

a fastening member provided at another location inwardly of a sub-projection with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 32 (New): A heat exchanger comprising:

a pair of headers spaced apart and opposing each other;

a plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel and spaced apart from each other, each of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes having an opposite end placed into a corresponding insertion hole formed in a respective one of the pair of headers such that the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes are joined to the headers;

a side plate disposed outside of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel such that the side plate is disposed at a distance from an end tube of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel, the side plate having opposing projections and opposing upright walls integrally formed therein and each extending toward said outside of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes, the opposing projections being provided at opposing lengthwise end portions of the side plate and the opposing upright walls being provided at opposing widthwise side edges of the side plate;

corrugated fins arranged between the side plate and the end heat exchange tube adjacent thereto, wherein the opposing projections are configured to prevent opposite end portions of the corrugated fins from slipping off from between the side plate and the end heat exchange tube adjacent thereto without deforming the corrugated fins plastically when a pressure member is provided in contact with each of the projections and a fastening member is arranged to bind the pressure member, side plate, heat exchange tubes and corrugated fins together at a location between one of said projections and a respective header adjacent thereto; and

brazing joints provided at least between the headers and an adjacent heat exchange tube, and provided at least between the corrugated fins and an adjacent heat exchange tube or an adjacent side plate.

Claim 33 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 32, wherein each of the opposing projections of the side plate are positioned at a distance of up to 135 mm from one of the headers.

Claim 34 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 32, wherein each of the opposing projections comprises at least two projections spaced apart along a widthwise direction of the side plate.

Claim 35 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 32, wherein the opposing projections of the side plate each have a height of 0.3 to 1 mm.

Claim 36 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 32, wherein the opposing projections of the side plate each have a circular shape of 1 to 4 mm in diameter.

Claim 37 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 32, further comprising a sub-projection formed at a distance from each opposing projection at the end portions of the side plate, each of the sub-projections being positioned inwardly of the opposing projections with respect to the longitudinal direction of the side plate.

Claim 38 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 38, wherein each sub-projection is provided at a distance of up to 30 mm from one of the opposing projections at each end portion of the side plate.

Claim 39 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 38, wherein each sub-projection comprises at least two sub-projections spaced apart along a widthwise direction of the side plate.

Claim 40 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 38, wherein the sub-projections of the side plate each have a height of 0.3 to 1 mm.

Claim 41 (New): The heat exchanger according to claim 38, wherein the sub-projections of the side plate each have a circular shape of 1 to 4 mm in diameter.

Claim 42 (New): A heat exchanger comprising:

a pair of headers spaced apart and opposing each other;

a plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel and spaced apart from each other, each of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes having an opposite end placed into a corresponding insertion hole formed in a respective one of the pair of headers such that the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes are joined to the headers;

a side plate disposed outside of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel such that the side plate is disposed at a distance from an end tube of the plurality of flat heat exchange tubes arranged in parallel;

corrugated fins arranged between the side plate and the end heat exchange tube adjacent thereto;

means, integrally provided on said side plate, for preventing opposite end portions of the corrugated fins from slipping off from between the side plate and the end heat exchange tube adjacent thereto without deforming the corrugated fins plastically when a pressure

member is provided in contact with each of the projections and a fastening member is arranged to bind the pressure member, side plate, heat exchange tubes and corrugated fins together at a location between one of said projections and a respective header adjacent thereto; and

brazing joints provided at least between the headers and an adjacent heat exchange tube, and provided at least between the corrugated fins and an adjacent heat exchange tube or an adjacent side plate.